

Reflective summary of CEC meeting

The District 25 CEC meeting was off to a slow start due to the fact that there were originally not enough members to make quorum. Originally there were seven members of the CEC in attendance for the meeting. The committee members were seated at a conference table. They were engaged in conversation and eating. Approximately seven minutes after seven the audience was still somewhat empty. There are only eleven people present.

At approximately 7:17 pm the meeting finally began with the pledge, followed by a moment of silence for Boston. At this time the committee did not meet quorum however chose to get started (since they were already behind the designated starting time. The superintendent report was presented. There was a discussion surrounding Kindergarten workshops and upcoming PA elections that are scheduled to take place in June. In addition parent elections for SLT were discussed with the group.

Next there was a short discussion about CEC elections and the importance of parents getting involved in these elections. Parent Association members were reminded that instructions were mailed to families last week. It was stated that these instructions include login information for parents. In addition, calls will be made using the call messaging system. Finally, voting will run from May 1st through May 14th.

Next on the agenda was a discussion and invitation to the 10th annual ELL parent conference. The conference featuring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor as the keynote speaker will take place on May 15th at the Jacob Javitz center. This year's theme is Creating Pathways to College: Dream, Believe, And Succeed!

A brief discussion about G&T scoring errors was shared. The organization responsible for the assessment of this exam had inaccuracies in their scoring which resulted in second round notification of students provided with G&T placements for the fall. The following phone number was provided for questions: 888-705-9417. Families could inquire about G&T testing Monday through Friday from 8 am to 8 pm. In addition there is availability to call on weekends from 8 am to 3pm.

Next was the announcement that PS 244 will be the first school to go vegetarian in the district! (they seemed proud of this accomplishment)

The committee made reference to Power Brain and ways to use this program to distress. There are now nine members of the CEC committee present allowing them to meet quorum. The minutes from the previous meeting were voted on and accepted at approximately 7:29 PM. The President then spoke, parents expressed concern about CCLS, school construction authority, testing, teacher evaluations and school budgets.

There are now seventeen audience members present. Families were told that due to issues in Hallorans office, funds for Reso A grant funding have been placed on hold until further notice. At 7:34 PM the Vice President addressed the audience. She mentioned that they will be moving forward with the parent involvement workshops discussed. She made reference to a parent academy, which will take place on May 14th at MS 214. Each speaker asks if anyone has questions, but no one shares any questions. The audience is silent.

At approximately 7:43 PM the floor is open for public speakers. They briefly mention a Black history month extravaganza however the venue costs seem too high . They are exploring the possibility of using the Queens college quad. Assistance is being given by the head of African American studies. This event is being moved to end of September instead of July.

The team did not seem organized as members showed up late causing the meeting to get started much later than originally scheduled. The team could not originally make quorum and did not until close to 7:30 pm. The members of the CEC went through the agenda and shared news. I question the effectiveness of the meeting since families in attendance did not engage in conversations and did not raise any questions or comments throughout the meeting. The audience sat quietly listening and often nodding in agreement. Based on discussions including the Data Wise process for improvement it would be beneficial to hear discussions that include data and goals for the district. In addition many of the items that were discussed during the meeting were stated as happenings however were in isolation of one another.